(2) Medical Relief.

103. Necessity for introducing a system of medical registration in the State with reference to both the allopathic and indigenous systems.

Mr. A. Rama Pie M. A., B. L. (Member, Municipal Council, Quilon) stated that, though his subject included both the allopathic and the indigenous systems of medicine, it was with special reference to Ayurveda that he proposed to speak. In allopathy, since the average level of the general education of those who took to its practice was fairly high, the chances of unqualified men being allowed to play with human lives were very rare, though instances were not wanting in which compounders and chemists and druggists played the rôle of doctors, resulting in avoidable loss of life. In Ayurveda, the state of affairs was far more serious. Persons without the slightest acquaintance with the medical science and without practical experience of any kind took to the healing art as their profession. The stock of their knowledge consisted of a few *slokas* committed to memory. They were exploiting the credulous public to their own advantage. Year after year the number of medical practitioners under the Ayurveda system was on the increase. They had no qualification of any kind and yet they were using poisons and poisonous drugs to the detriment of human life. He was not unaware of the difficulties that she locin the way of his suggestion being carried out. But the risk of allowing the Governmtate of affairs to continue was great. He, therefore, urged the desirability ce sides of ing a system of medical registration in the State.

Dewan's reply.—The subject of your discourse is a very import ghauts put u should not enic yourself anticipate a number of difficulties in legislating on the subje Educatio are doing departmentally all that is possible for ensuring efficiency and preventing ill-qualified people from practising the medical profession. Compounders employed in Government institutions are prohibited by departmental orders from prescribing or practising, and the breaches of these orders, if brought to the notice of the Darbar Physician and proved, will be visited with punishment.

In regard to the Ayurveda system, we insist upon our grant-in-aid Vaidyans being either people who have undergone a course of training in the Ayurveda College or being certified by the Director of Ayurveda as competent to practise. But there is the larger question remaining still unanswered. What about the multitude of practitioners who are not aided by Government? They are not amenable to Government control. It is a difficult question and a question which requires consideration. A serious objection to bringing them under legislative control is that we have not got a sufficient number of qualified men spread all over the country, and if we prohibit them now from practising, the public are likely to suffer. Legislation is the ultimate goal, but it must take time to reach that goal. The matter will be kept in view.

104. Insufficient supply of medicines to hospitals and the consequent hardships of the poor.

Mr. V. K. Kesava Pillai (Member, Minachil Taluk) expressed his gratification at the change for the better that had come over the administration of the Medical Department since the appointment of Dr. Lakshmanan as Darbar Physician. Still the old complaint remained, *viz.*, that the medicines supplied were not sufficient even for the requirements of six months. The fact had to be noted that, while the number of patients continued increasing year by year, the expenditure on account of the purchase of medicines was going down. For example, though the number of patients treated in all the medical institutions of the State in 1097 was 50,058 more than that of the year previous, the total expenditure on account of the purchase of medicines in 1097 was Rs. 54,503 less than that for 1096. The Member, therefore, requested that medicines might be supplied more liberally.

The Member also pointed out that, while the number of patients treated in the hospital at Lalam in 1097 was more than that treated at Kottayam in the same year, the number of medical officers at Lalam was only two, of whom one had to attend to the Poonjar Dispensary also, against four in the Kottayam Hospital.

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